

# May

Magic Lantern Society NEWS 2014



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

*Maybe This is the First Selfie Slip Slide*



*Children's Slide Images by Theodor v. Kramer*



***Each month until we meet in July for the 16th International Magic Lantern Convention I will provide an update on some aspect of the convention weekend. I thought I would start with some highlights of what should be a fabulous weekend of shows and presentations. Here are four of the offerings during the weekend.***

***Chairman Dick Balzer  
DickBalzer@gmail.com.***

## **Boston Massachusetts July 10-13, 2014**

May is just around the corner. We may finally be done with snow. I know we are all itching for summer and the fast approaching convention. Here are a few more shows/presentations to get excited about:

We will on Friday evening have the world premiere of the new movie, "A Magic-Lantern Life: The Story of the American Magic-Lantern Theater." The film was made by noted documentarians **Marcin Gizycki and Peter O'Neil**.

**Artemis Willis** will be talking about the very popular and omnipresent Keystone slides. Her presentation is entitled, "Between Screen Practice and Peep Practice: The Keystone 600 Set."



**Jeremy Brooker**, the winner this past year of the Society's research award and author of *The Temple of Minerva* will be make a presentation Entitled: *A Wonderful Shillingsworth: Magic and the Magic Lantern at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, London.*"

**Mary Ann Auckland** will make a presentation about her Canadian great grandmother, an explorer of the Canadian Rockies and Magic Lantern Slide Maker.



***The host committee looks forward to seeing you all in July.***

*Those of you who have already registered and made hotel reservations we look forward to seeing you. Those who haven't there still is plenty of time. There are no more rooms available at the Day's Hotel at \$129/night but you can still book rooms at \$149/night. Call 617-254-1234 and mention the Magic Lantern Society to get this special rate. For those of you who might like to try to find other housing a good alternative source is Airbnb. It is a website that provides private rooms or apartments/houses to rent on a short-stay basis. We live in Brookline and there are plenty of listings for the town. The website's address is. <https://www.airbnb.com>*



## From Rick Thompson

I recently acquired an African slaving expedition & safari. I purchased a large lot of collectibles at a Hollywood estate sale. These images are pretty brutal exhibiting all kinds of horrific events. Slides are in excellent condition. I'm interested in selling all 13 slides together. Contact me if you're interested

Rick Thompson

[paduka1@yahoo.com](mailto:paduka1@yahoo.com)

mobile 818-389-8844 or 818-389-8844

## Slides For Sale



*Editor Note:  
These are litho printed decal slides with  
some damage.*

*Crazing across all of this slide.  
Broken edge and missing tape*



## Finding the Lantern in Many Places and Uses



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tekniskamuseet/12835439693/>

### From Shel Izen

Check out the lantern, on the right, in use as part of this studio set-up.

### From: Kentwood Wells Attention members:

The full color PDFs of the 2013 issues of the Magic Lantern Gazette have now been posted online:

<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/online-materials/magic-lantern-pubs/gazette>

## PhD Scholarship Magic lantern cultures in Britain

### From Anna Briggs

-I believe AHRC funding residency requirements are quite strict, but this might be of interest for British or UK resident magic lantern enthusiasts!

Anna Briggs  
Université François-Rabelais de Tours

[http://www.arts-and-humanities.whiterose.ac.uk/news\\_events/ahrc-fully-funded-collaborative-doctoral-award-magic-lantern-cultures-in-britain-1850-1920exhibition-reception-and-mixed-media-landscapes/](http://www.arts-and-humanities.whiterose.ac.uk/news_events/ahrc-fully-funded-collaborative-doctoral-award-magic-lantern-cultures-in-britain-1850-1920exhibition-reception-and-mixed-media-landscapes/)

AHRC FULLY FUNDED COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL AWARD  
Magic Lantern Cultures in Britain, 1850-1920: Exhibition, Reception and Mixed Media Landscapes

Applications are invited for a three-year, fully-funded AHRC Studentship (including full fees and maintenance costs) to undertake an interdisciplinary PhD under the joint supervision of the Department of English at the University of York and the National Media Museum, Bradford.

The successful candidate will also be a member of the prestigious new AHRC-funded Doctoral Training Partnership, the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (WROCAH).

## Question to Membership

### Dear members of the Magic Lantern Society,

I am wondering whether magic lanterns were taken on a wagon train / oxen cart to the American West? And were slides of this event were produced that were shown in the West by travelling exhibitors, as early as the 1850's..? I am especially interested in the period 1857-1858 and would be interested to learn if slides exist from the Overland Trail (the great trek westwards with wagon trains) from that period, shown in the West and elsewhere (e.g. in cities back East?)

If you know anything about this topic or even have slides, I would be excited to hear about that.

Thank you and all the best,  
Emjay Rechsteiner (Email: [Emjay@staccatofilms.com](mailto:Emjay@staccatofilms.com)) “

Please share any information  
you have about this inquiry  
also send to  
**LARRY**





Members of PSPCS and the public came to see and hear about the magic lantern society, history of lantern slide use here in the Northwest and view displays of lanterns and slides.

The story of a pathfinding expedition “The Flanders 20,” photographers and photographic mishaps and individuals that helped the *Good Road Movement* here in the northwest was the subject matter of the presentation.

## **Show and Displays April 11 & 12**

### **Friday, April 11**

Group NW gave a presentation at Kent Commons, location of the Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society 34th annual show and sale.



**Displays**



**Audience beginning to gather**



**Saturday, April 12  
Display Table**

# Illusions in Glass: Magic Lantern Slide Exhibition Denver Botanic Gardens

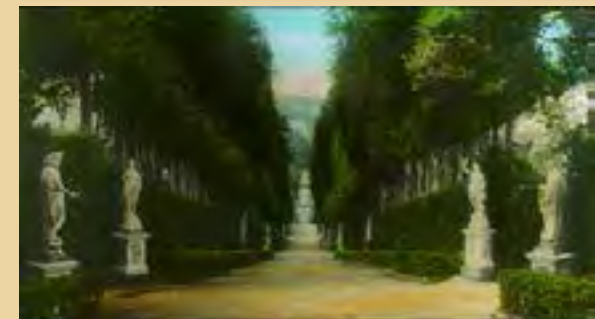
**From: Carol Johnson**

I saw the Illusions in Glass: Magic Lantern Slide exhibition today. Ten unattributed enlargements from lantern slides. The enlargements measured 41 x 48" so the images were not very sharp. Most were gardens in Italy or "unknown location".

<http://www.botanicgardens.org/exhibits/indoor/illusions-glass-magic-lantern-slides>



View historic glass magic lantern slides from the special collections of the Gardens' own Helen Fowler Library and learn more about a gorgeous historical medium that brought the world of travel and fantasy to life.







By  
Sarah  
Dellmann



Since October 2013, this series interviews scholars about the role of the magic lantern in their research, across the disciplines and across all possible entry points. Academic research is often based on the knowledge of collectors and amateurs – this series aims to share information the other way around. What do academics do with the information after having browsed through your collections? What do they see in the archival material and what does the lantern or lantern practices help them to explain? I hope this series contributes to the accessibility of academic research and strengthens the ties between collectors and academics in this Society. In the eight edition of this series, Interview of Claire Dupré la Tour

If you wish to share your work, contact Sarah ([s.dellmann@uu.nl](mailto:s.dellmann@uu.nl))

## Magic Lantern In Academic Research Interview of Claire Dupré la Tour

### Where do you work and what is the topic of your research?

I have been working for a long time on the subject of the intertitle in early cinematography, and am now writing my Ph.D. on this topic at Utrecht University - the Netherlands. The current title of my Dissertation is Intertitle and Narrative Film - 1895-1916. Genesis, developments, and logics of a filmographic device. The example of production in the United States, and the case study of Intolerance (D. W. Griffith, 1916). I am a Member of the Magic Lantern Society (UK) and of Domitor (formerly member of its executive committee and President of its French branch). I am also a member of French research associations on cinematography (AFRHC and AFECCAV), and I serve as a co-editor of the journal Iris. I expect to finish my thesis before summer 2014.



### How do you work? With which sources do you work?

I began my doctoral research by studying the intertitles in Intolerance, as this long feature film had numerous and diverse intertitles. 1916 marks the end of a transition period during which devices for narrative productions had been tested and adopted. These devices included close ups, point of view shots, parallel editing... and intertitles. Many questions soon arose: what were the origins of the intertitle and how was it used until 1916? I soon found a lack of scholarship on this topic. Guided by the few studies I found, I dug into early archival material: film and lantern slides sets, catalogs (of film, material, and accessories), trade press articles, scenario and technical manuals, etc.



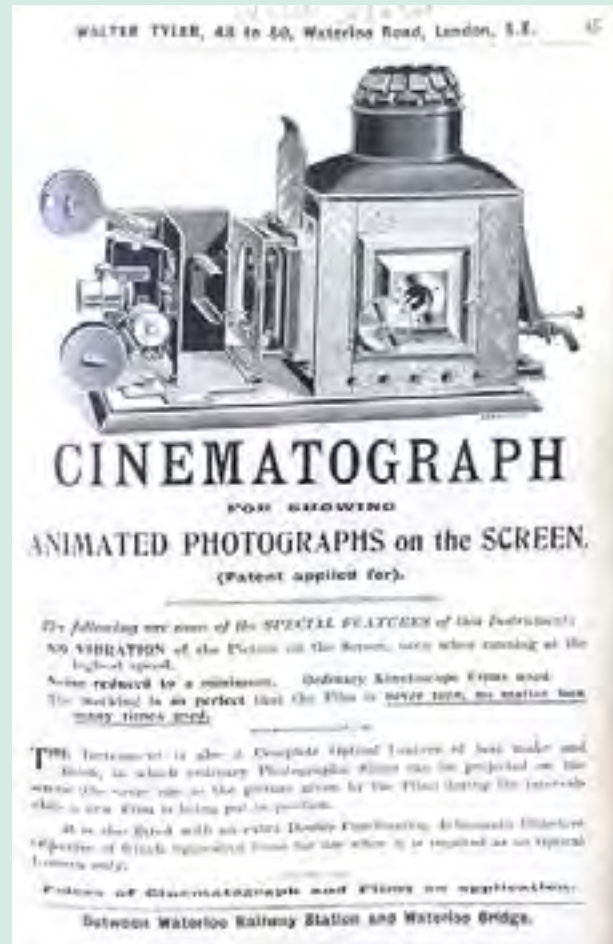
**Uncle Josh At The Moving Picture Show, Edison 1902**

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## Interview of Claire Dupré la Tour continued

### When and how did the Magic Lantern appear in your research?

While I was digging, I found out that the intertitle's history is mainly rooted in lantern projection practices. Early film exhibitors presented varieties of moving pictures, generally in one shot lasting a minute or less. Most of the time, they had a film projector to project films and a magic lantern to project glass slides. Projecting texts was common in lantern programs: educational billboards, song or hymn lyrics, poems and Bible quotations, announcements, inscriptions into drawings, or titles of sets. For films projections, the film's title inscribed on a slide could be projected from a magic lantern while the reel of the film projector was being changed. The spectator would then see a succession of moving pictures and titles. This allowed for uninterrupted projection, making it evident that the title slide was an important editing tool. A lecturer, or at least the projectionist, was present to announce and comment on the film, but titles projection was considered a quality mark of the showing. For the projectionist, manipulating two projectors and two types of projected material was complicated, but quickly new projectors were making it much easier: combining projectors giving them the ability to switch from a slide to a film.



**A combined projector for lantern and film, advertised by Tyler and Sons, ca. 1902.**



**Ali Baba et les quarante voleurs, Pathe 1902**

In 1902-1903, companies in France, the UK and the US began selling films edited with their titles on the filmstrip. For the companies, this allowed selling ready-made products and keeping control over them. For the projectionist, it was a second step into the simplification of the projection, and for the exhibitors it opened up the door to saving funds on the lecturer remuneration. If the title was announced by the film itself, it was then possible to avoid a lecture. A competition began between the title and the lecturer. Moreover, the innovation of film titles on the filmstrip coincided with attempts to tell more complex stories in multiple shots films like in chase films. From then on story-telling films expanded in quantity and length as the invention of written text on filmstrip was soon developed inside films. A film could have its title at the beginning and intertitles inside. (The device continued to be named “title”, but also “subtitle”, “leader”

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## Interview of Claire Dupré la Tour continued

or “caption”, sometimes “sub-head”, “heading”, “interscript”. It is what we call today the “intertitles”. The term “intertitle” was not employed throughout the silent era, it appeared after the synchronized sound turn.)

From 1907 on, intertitles were permanently ambivalently discussed in the trade press and books: while the ideal was to avoid using them intertitles were used in all productions. They were progressively retooled until the early 1910's, when they started being used to transcribe characters' dialogue.

### **What do you wish to achieve with your research?**

My aim was to explore the understudied history of the intertitle, and I have not been disappointed: it is captivating! The understanding of the titles' origins proves that the lantern was an inherent part of film projections for at least ten years: Biograph for example was using title slides as late



**Uncle Tom's Cabin, Edison 1903**

as 1906. And, at least until 1916, filmed titles were often fabricated with a hybrid system combined with lantern slides. It is a fascinating case of intermediality between lantern and cinematography. The lecturer is also part of the lantern's legacy, his competition with the filmed title is of great interest as well. This research has opened new perspectives on the comprehension of early film editing and storytelling.

It motivates me for further research on film title slide practices and on the switch from slide titles to filmed titles, those fabulous editing processes deserve to be further recognized, documented and analyzed.

You can see my publications on the Utrecht University website. Please do not hesitate to contact me, I will be happy to receive your feedbacks, questions, suggestions, and helps.  
<http://www.uu.nl/staff/CMSDupreLaTour2/0>  
[claire.dupre.la.tour@gmail.com](mailto:claire.dupre.la.tour@gmail.com)

As Seen On



## Creative Interpretations



*Not a Slide But a Glass Negative for  
Production of Photo Cards*

### **Glass Plate Negative Slide 1923 OIL GAS JOURNAL VENEZUELA WELLS Antique ML13**

Seller information stuff4uand4u (19784 )

Price: US \$12.59

Description: Glass Plate Negative Slide  
1923 OIL GAS JOURNAL VENEZUELA WELLS

Rare Antique Slide

Good Condition - Clear Picture

Measures about 4 1/4" by 3 1/4"



### **ANTIQUE AMERICAN DEPRESSION ERA BASEBALL MAGIC LANTERN SLIDE DOUBLE HEADER**

Price: US \$299.99

Buy It Now

An original glass slide measuring approximately 3 1/4 x 4 inches.



*Creative  
Pricing and  
Interpretation  
for a Single  
Piece of Glass*



As Seen On



## ANTIQUE LANCASTERS THE RUBRALUX MAGIC LANTERN

on the top is an old label advertising Prof. Lamberts Magic Lantern

### From Lindsay Lambert

It's a darkroom lamp rather than a magic lantern, but the interesting part is that the seller has included one of my lantern show cards with it, undoubtedly to lend an air of authenticity!

A fellow in Cardiff, Wales is trying to sell a Lancaster's Rubralux darkroom lamp as a magic lantern. The curious part is that it is pictured with one of my magic lantern show cards, which he describes in a way that lends an air of authenticity. I have been corresponding with him: It is actually one of my card fridge magnets which I hand out sparingly, generally to friends. It came with the lamp, which he bought at auction. It's a mystery how it made its way there.



*Creative Price for Keystone Slide  
Note Unique Light Box–Airplane Window*

## ANTIQUE ATLANTIC CITY NJ FERRIS WHEEL BOARDWALK RPPC TINTYPE STUDIO GLASS PHOTO

Price: **US \$499.99**

Seller information theprimitivefold (1341 Chicago, Illinois)

An original glass slide measuring approximately 3 1/4 x 4 inches in good condition. Moerk was a photographer in Atlantic City.



### *A Big Thank You to the following:*

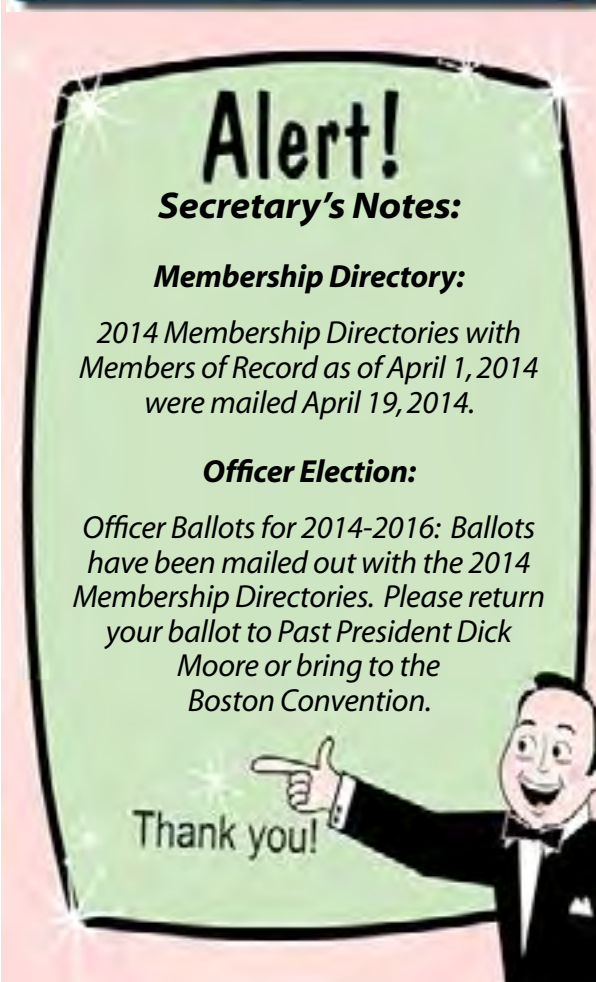
Dick Balzer  
Debbie Borton  
Terry Borton  
Anna Briggs  
Sarah Dellmann  
Ron Easterday  
Shel Izen  
Carol Johnson  
Lindsay Lambert  
Rick Thompson  
Emjay Rechsteiner  
Kentwood Wells

*for contributing to this month's issue.*

### **Now it's your turn to share!**

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?  
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

**E-mail Larry**



### **Welcome New Members**

#### **Conant, Todd**

5000 N. Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92106-2386  
Phone: (619) 990-8447

#### **Schroeder, Augusta**

9 Village Way  
North Andover, MA 01845-2000

#### **Tureman, Sue**

6211 28th Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Phone: 206-271-9659  
stepdancesue@gmail.com  
www.TheCrankieFactory.com  
Interests: Pre-cinema entertainment; moving panoramas and the modern day version which is the crankie.

### **Welcome Renewing Members**

#### **Mannoni, Laurent**

Cinematheque Francaise, Conservatoire des techniques  
40 Avenue des Terroirs de France  
75611 PARIS CEDEX 12  
FRANCE  
00331.53.79.01.56  
Cinematheque Francaise, Conservatoire des techniques - collection des appareils  
l.mannoni@cinematheque.fr  
Interests: Lanterns, Slides, Literature, Kinetic Devices, Vintage Cinema.  
Gives Shows